

Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi and Assembly Coastal Caucus Members Advance Important Legislation to Protect California's Coastline and Marine Animals

Bills Call for Statewide Phasing Out of Styrofoam, Plastic Bags, and Removable Bottle Caps



Lt. Governor Garamendi looks on as Assemblymember Brownley and "the Plastic Bag Monster" present the bill to ban plastic bags.

SACRAMENTO – Lieutenant Governor John Garamendi, chairman of the State Lands Commission and member of the Ocean Protection Council, today joined Assembly Coastal Caucus members Pedro Nava (D-Santa Barbara), Julia Brownley (D-Santa Monica), Jerry Hill (D-San Mateo), and Lori Saldaña (D-San Diego), and environmental leaders from the Clean Seas Coalition to push for new statewide standards to phase out Styrofoam packaging,

disposable plastic bags, and removable bottle caps known to pollute waterways and kill thousands of marine animals yearly.

Garamendi, who founded the Clean Seas Coalition in 2008, said industries will adjust to the new standards just as they did with the bans on chloro-fluoro-carbons in aerosol cans and removable aluminum pop tops.

“When the California Legislature takes the leadership as these bills do, the industries will adjust. There is a huge consumer market and these are products that can adapt to every single piece of legislation here. So to the industries, stop your whining and do it. You can do it without a law, but if you need a law, there will be a law. Furthermore, we will be able to clean-up our oceans, our beaches and we’re going to save a whole lot of tax money in the clean-up,” Lieutenant John Garamendi said.

Garamendi, the former deputy interior secretary in the Clinton administration, said for years we have trashed both the coastline and the ocean. Now there is a major attempt by the California Coastal Commission, the State Lands Commission, environmental groups and California legislators to clean up one of the most spectacular and valuable assets of California. More than 20 California cities and counties have banned environmentally destructive food and beverage containers.

The Coastal Caucus legislation includes:

- AB 1358 -- Safe and Sustainable Take-Out Food Packaging - Assemblymember Jerry Hill

- AB 68 Single-Use Plastic Bag Fee -- Assemblymember Julia Brownley
- AB 925 Recyclable, Attached Bottle Caps -- Assemblymember Lori Saldaña
- AB 283 Extended Producer Responsibility -- Assemblymember Pedro Nava and Heidi Sanborn of the California Product Stewardship Council

Last year Garamendi launched the “Clean Seas Coalition,” a growing group of environmentalists, scientists, California lawmakers and students to strengthen laws reducing trash in California’s seas and beaches. Garamendi formed the “Clean Seas Coalition” to make the Ocean Protection Council’s pollution reduction recommendations a reality. Garamendi sits on the seven-member OPC.